



October 2013

Funding News:

In 2014, the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council is looking forward to continuing initiatives that reflect and impact the goals and objectives of our 5 Year State Plan. The initiatives will focus on lasting changes in the areas of assistive technology, advocacy, education, and employment.

In This Issue

Continuing Initiatives
Continuing Employment
Initiatives
In Other News...

Council Funded Initiatives Continuing in 2014

Assistive Technology

Maryland Assistive Technology Implementation Plan (MATIP)

AT: LAST, Inc.

AT: LAST Inc. makes important advancements in assistive technology by building the capacity of direct service providers to support people with developmental disabilities to communicate their wants and needs, increase their self-determination, and strengthen their independence. Through collaboration with the Maryland Disability Law Center, MATIP also addresses policy barriers people with developmental disabilities face when attempting to obtain assistive technology equipment and services. *For more information contact, [Lisa Brodjieski](#)*

Advocacy

Enhancing Advocacy & Public Policy Work

People On the Go of Maryland (POG)

POG is strengthening and sustaining a self-directed, active and effective statewide self-advocacy network. POG supports local self-advocacy groups by providing leadership trainings, mentoring opportunities, and sponsoring a Legislative Internship. POG also supports the self-advocacy movement of Southern Maryland by forming new groups and collaborating on accessible transportation.

For more information contact, [Ken Capone](#) or visit [pogmd.org](#)

Developing the Self-Advocacy Skills of Youth with Developmental Disabilities

Project ACT (Advocacy, Communication & Transition)

TransCen, Inc.

Project ACT increases the self-advocacy skills of youth with developmental disabilities ages 14-21 in Somerset County. TransCen, Inc. partners with Artstream, a theater group, and public schools to educate youth about leadership, goal setting and how to speak up for themselves. Youth attend a six-session self-advocacy training series so they are better prepared to plan for their futures.

For more information contact, [Christy Stuart](#)

Parent Education

Reaching More Families: Increasing Parent Knowledge and Skills

TransCen, Inc.

The Reaching More Families initiative increases the knowledge and skills of family members of children with developmental disabilities in Somerset County about public education and post-school services. The six-session parent training covers person-centered planning, the IEP process,

transition services, and educational rights.
For more information contact, [Monica Simonsen](#)

Parent Involvement, Educational Plans, Advocacy, Knowledge, & Skills (PEAKS) The Arc Baltimore

PEAKS educates, trains, and builds the skills of homeless and transient families with children with developmental disabilities in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Families learn how to advocate for their child's inclusive education, how to navigate the special education system, and about their legal rights. For more information contact, [Nellie Power](#)

Council Funded Employment Initiatives Continuing in 2014

Improving Employment Services

Council funding provides customized training and technical assistance to three service providers focused on changing their model of employment supports. The staff of *Goodwill Industries of Monocacy Valley*, *Penn-Mar* and *Ardmore Enterprises* are receiving expert mentoring and coaching in order to improve employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.



Employment Professionals' Development and Enrichment Project The Arc of Howard County

The number of students in Howard County diagnosed with autism is steadily rising. To increase employment opportunities for youth and adults, The Arc of Howard County trains Employment and Day Services staff on best practices for working with people with autism.

For more information contact, [Carol Beatty](#).

Employment Supports for Transitioning Youth TransCen, Inc.

TransCen, Inc. helps five organizations develop more effective ways to structure and provide employment services to improve outcomes for transitioning youth. Organizations receiving help include: Shared Support of Maryland, Arc/Northern Chesapeake Region, Melwood, the Arc Washington County and the Lower Shore Consortium (United Needs and Abilities, Lower Shore Enterprises, Abilities Network and Somerset Community Services).

For more information, contact [Debra Luecking](#)

Maryland Organizational Change Peer Network TransCen, Inc.

The Organizational Change Peer Network supports providers as they build their capacity to offer customized employment services and supports to people with developmental disabilities. TransCen, Inc. staff leads quarterly meetings where Network members share information, resources, and strategies on how to improve person-centered services that lead to community-based employment.

For more information, contact [Debra Luecking](#)

For more information about ALL of the Council's
Continuation & Employment initiatives
for 2014 visit, [Projects](#)

In Other News...

New Priority: Sibling Support & Advocacy

Over the next few months, the Council is initiating two new efforts aimed at better understanding - and addressing - the unique needs of siblings of people with disabilities. We are focusing on young siblings and adult siblings differently.

For young siblings we are gathering a core group of parents, sibshop providers and other stakeholders in Maryland to identify what is already occurring in support of young siblings, what



needs are not addressed, who needs to be engaged, and what more we need to do collaboratively.

Contact: Rachel London: rlondon@md-council.org

For adult siblings, we will facilitate the establishment of a Maryland chapter of the [Siblings Leadership Network](#) as a means to provide siblings of people with disabilities information and support, as well as tools to advocate with their brothers and sisters and to promote issues important to them.

Contact: Brian Cox: brianc@md-council.org

Improving Employment Outcomes

The Council, DDA and MD Department of Disabilities, in partnership with other stakeholders, were selected to participate in a new federal initiative: *Employment Learning Community - Improving Employment Systems and Services (ELC)*. We formed a consortium to increase inclusive, competitive employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Through MD's engagement in the ELC, the consortium envisions: 1) creating a culture where employment of people with DD is an expectation, 2) strengthening state and local collaborations that facilitate increased employment, 3) adopting policies, regulations, and funding mechanisms that remove barriers and promote competitive employment, and 4) identifying and implementing an on-going training and professional development plan to improve the quality of employment services and supports.

Contact: Cathy Lyle: cathyl@md-council.org

Resources - Use & Share!

Remember these free publications & DVD are available from the Council, electronically and hard copy.

[Planning Now](#), A Futures and Estate Guide for Families of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities. Planning Now is available electronically in English and Spanish.

[What's Possible: The Stories of 9 Changed Lives](#) tells the stories of nine people who left the Rosewood Center to move into the community. Read about the changes that occurred in their lives and how they, and their families, feel about it. For additional copies, contact info@md-council.org or call 1.800.305.6441, ext. 1.

[Departing Rosewood](#), a short documentary, follows one man's journey from Rosewood to his own home in Washington County.

Hold the Dates!

[Town Hall with DHMH & DDA Leadership](#): November 13, 2013, from 6-8pm

DD Day at the Legislature: February 18, 2014

TAX Season Approaches!

Remember the DD Waiting List on MD tax returns? It gives tax filers the opportunity to donate a portion of their tax returns to fund supports to people on the DDA waiting list. The Council is working with the MD Dept of Disabilities, The Arc MD, and a public relations firm to develop and implement a public awareness campaign - stay tuned!

Watch for more information from the Council on these initiatives, including ways to get involved. The quickest way to receive current updates is to "Like" our Facebook page.



Tom Webb, Council Chairperson | Brian Cox, Executive Director | Angela Castillo-Epps, Editor
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Phone: 1.800.305.6441 ~ MD Relay: 711 ~ Fax: 410.333.3686

Website: www.md-council.org ~ Email: Info@md-council.org

Like us on Facebook 

Funding for this publication is authorized by Subtitle B of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, Washington, D.C.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to by info@md-council.org |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



MD Developmental Disabilities Council | 217 E. Redwood Street | Suite 1300 | Baltimore | MD | 21202